

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

- N O T I C E -

Effective December 1, 2000, a number of this Court's Local Rules will be abrogated by new amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Those amendments are published at 192 F.R.D. 340-97 and may be found online at <http://www.uscourts.gov/rules/approved.htm>.

Among other important changes, the new amendments (1) eliminate this Court's authority to opt out of the initial (and now revised) disclosure requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1), and thus invalidate our local rule mandatory interrogatories; (2) require the parties to confer and submit a proposed discovery plan to the Court under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f); and (3) prohibit all discovery prior to the Rule 26(f) conference except when authorized by court order or agreement of the parties.

Pending the formal adoption of amended local rules, the parties are directed to comply with the following time limitations:

- Within 20 days after the filing of the last answer of the defendants named in the original complaint, but in no event later than 45 days after the first appearance by answer or motion under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 of a defendant named in the original complaint, the parties shall confer as provided in Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f).
- Within 10 days after the required conference pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f), the parties shall submit to the Court a written report outlining their discovery plan. This report shall conform to the language and format of the standard form furnished by the Clerk to the plaintiff upon the filing of the complaint.

- Upon receipt and review of the parties' written report, and within the time set by Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b), the Court will promptly enter its Scheduling Order as provided in Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b).

- Unless otherwise stated in the Scheduling Order issued pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b):

- (i) the parties shall serve all written discovery on opposing parties and shall complete all depositions within 140 days of the filing of the last answer of the defendants named in the original complaint;
- (ii) the plaintiff must furnish the expert witness reports required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2) within 60 days after the Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f) conference; and
- (iii) the defendant must furnish the expert witness reports required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2) within 90 days after the Rule 26(f) conference (or 60 days after the answer, whichever is later).

The Clerk will furnish a copy of this notice and the standard form for preparing the parties' Rule 26(f) written report to plaintiff's counsel upon the filing of the complaint. Plaintiff's counsel shall ensure that a copy of this notice and the standard form is served upon each defendant along with the complaint.